

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Mr. [unclear] *[Signature]*

Attached is Mr. Colby's less than enthusiastic response to Admiral de Poix' proposal that--subject to USIB concurrence--an interagency group be set up to study the quantifying of uncertainties in intelligence.

I will send copies to OCI, OSR, & CGAS.

lynne, please done by 9 Aug.



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DIA*

9 August 74
(DATE)

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Vice Admiral V. P. de Poix, USN
Director, Defense Intelligence Agency
Room 3E258
The Pentagon

Dear Vince:

I am quite in sympathy with your views concerning how we can best quantify our uncertainties in the various judgments set forth in our many publications. This is a problem that has plagued the producers of intelligence for many, many years. I am not sure that it is one that can be completely resolved but, at least in certain critical areas, I believe that some constructive steps can be taken.

I propose that, for a start, we ask the community's producers of scientific and technical intelligence to see if they can develop some better means of expressing uncertainty on specific issues which are likely to have an especially significant impact on major questions of the day. For example, our uncertainties concerning the accuracy of a given ICBM and the weight and yield of its warhead(s) are clearly considerations which our consumers should take into account when they seek to assess the utility of that weapon against a Minuteman silo.

I believe that, initially, we should avoid setting up a new mechanism to take on a task much broader in scope. If you agree, I will broach the subject at a USIB meeting in the near future and ask the appropriate USIB Committees to see what they can do along these lines. We might ask the IC Staff to track the steps actually taken or needed, and suggest to us any specific areas appropriate for the type of intensive study you suggested. Meanwhile, I would certainly agree that DIA take a leading role in the areas you have worked on. It may be that whatever advances can be made will prove beneficial in guiding us in areas other than the scientific and technical fields.

Sincerely,

/s/ Bill

W. E. Colby

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